



## HILLSDALE COUNTY HUMAN SERVICES NETWORK

20 Care Drive  
Hillsdale, MI 49242  
(517)437-7395 x-106

Joanne Sheldon, Chair  
Pastor Julie Carey, Vice Chair

### Minutes of Human Services Network January 19, 2010

#### Attending:

Dave Braxmaier – Sheriff Dept.  
John Robertson - Community Health Agency  
Lesia Pikaart – MPRI  
Brooke Rains – Child Care Network  
Laura Nye – DHS  
Cindy Rowe – CAA  
Steve Todd – Community Health Agency  
Diane Cranston – LifeWays  
Lora Ward – Hospice of Hillsdale County  
Maxine Vanlerberg – CAA  
Sharon Roberts – ISD/Early On  
Lucy Booth – Hospice of Hillsdale County  
Ginelle Skinner – Great Start Collaborative  
Wendy Warring – Substance Abuse Prevention Coalition  
Bud Vear – Hillsdale Community Theater  
Julie Carey – Ministerial Association  
Terry Vear – Senior Services Center  
Karen Lewthwaite – Legal Services  
Ginny Wood-Bailey – Region 2 Area Agency on Aging

Jane Munson – Key Opportunities  
Jill Rodenhauser – United Way  
Roy Vargas – McCullough Vargas and Associates  
Gary McCullough – McCullough Vargas and Assoc.  
Ken Lautzenheiser – County Commissioner  
Jessica Adams – CAPA  
Patrice Martin – SCMW!  
Chris Clarke – Salvation Army  
Robert Henthorne – ISD  
Heather Albright – Substance Abuse Prevention Coalition  
Georgia Mason – Domestic Harmony  
Sharon Bisher – Hillsdale Co. Community Foundation  
Christine Bowman – Economic Development Director  
Tony Slaughter – Life Challenge  
Jack Mosley – Life Challenge  
Joanne Sheldon - LifeWays  
Laurie Brandes - HSN

#### I. Welcome and Introductions

The HSN met at the Hillsdale Co. ISD on January 19, 2010. Joanne Sheldon called the meeting to order at 8:35am. Welcome was extended, and introductions were made.

#### II. Store Front Project – Christine Bowman, Economic Development Director

Christine explained an upcoming project between the City of Hillsdale and the HSN. The city will make available currently unoccupied store fronts and HSN members will create displays highlighting the efforts and services of local non-profits and agencies. The city will keep a list of property owners who would like to participate in the program, and the Communications Committee of the HSN will coordinate with the non-profits who would like to participate. A sign-up sheet was circulated for those who would like to be involved.

#### III. Approve Agenda

A motion was made by Robert Henthorne, seconded by Julie Carey, to approve the agenda as presented. **The motion carried unanimously.**

#### IV. Approve Minutes of November 17, 2009, Meeting

Ken Lautzenheiser made one correction – Item X – Agency Announcements – Adams Township approved their first ordinance dealing with wind energy, not the Commissioners. A motion was made by Terry Vear, seconded by Ginelle Skinner, to approve the minutes as corrected. **The motion carried unanimously.**

#### V. Agency Spotlight – South Central MI Works! – Patrice Martin

Patrice distributed the Annual Report of SCMW!, and an invitation to the Legislative Breakfast on March 22. Patrice talked about various projects of SCMW!. Their primary customers are job seekers and employers, making sure that workers have the skills they need. SCMW! is always seeking ways to be an effective partner with economic development, education, and others.

#### VI. Kids Count 2009 – John Robertson

John Robertson of the Community Health Agency presented a recap of the data included in the Kids Count 2009. Kids Count's focus for 2009 is "Place Matters", and the data is broken down by size of the county – urban, mid-size, and rural. Hillsdale County is a mid-size county (between 20,000 – 65,000 residents). All data is on the Health Department's website [www.bhsj.org](http://www.bhsj.org). Joanne Sheldon mentioned that the HSN Executive

Committee is making plans for updating the strategic plan, and this data will be an important part of that planning process.

### **VII. Update on Project Connect 2010 – Laurie Brandes**

Laurie Brandes gave an update on the upcoming Project Connect 2010, which will be held on January 27, 2010. Approximately 30 agencies are signed up to offer people information and services. Transportation will be provided throughout the county for the event.

### **VIII. Child Care Network Website – Brooke Rains**

Brooke Rains demonstrated to the HSN how the new Child Care Network (now the Southeast Great Start Regional Resource Center!) website works for parents searching for available child care. The website is: [www.greatstartforkids.org](http://www.greatstartforkids.org), and click on "CONNECT Early Learning Resources" to search for child care.

### **IX. Life Challenge – Tony Slaughter and Jack Mosley**

Jack Mosley gave an overview of Life Challenge, a faith-based residential alcohol and chemical dependency program for adult men (with plans to open a facility for women in the spring of 2010). It began operations in late December, 2009, at the old Drews Place on Spring Road in Hillsdale. Life Challenge is working with the local court system for referrals. The program, a 12-month time commitment, consists of community service (will be present at Project Connect), personal development (learn a skill, job shadowing, education), class, chapel, and meals.

### **X. Agency Announcements**

- **Terry Vear of Senior Services Center** announced that the Women's (third Wednesday) and Men's (second Thursday) Breakfasts continue at the Senior Center. Super Bowl Sub Sale is ongoing – see Terry. Super Spa is in March. Blood Drive at the Center will be Feb. 16. Parkinson's Support Group will meet the first Thursday of the month at 8pm. Alzheimer's Support Group meets on the fourth Thursday at 3:30 – 5:00pm. Terry also mentioned that there are computers in the lobby of the Senior Center for community use.
- **Julie Carey of Kings Kupboard** announced that orders for personal care packets are being taken during the 2<sup>nd</sup> week of the month at KK, and orders for the next month will be taken during the second week of the month also.
- **Julie Carey, wearing her Critical Incident Stress Management (CISM) hat**, announced a two-day training, Feb. 17-18, in basic CISM training. Cost is \$50, including lunch, and will be held at Luther Hall. Registration is due Feb. 5 – contact Kellie for more information.
- **Lucy Booth of Hospice of Hillsdale County** announced that they will be holding a Children's Grief Support Group (ages 7-12) on Feb. 9, 16, and 23.
- **Georgia Mason of Domestic Harmony** announced that February is Teen Dating Violence Awareness Month. DH is putting together a competition between local high schools, with a traveling trophy, to see which school can get the most students to wear purple in recognition of the prevention efforts.
- **Roy Vargas of Hope House** thanked Joanne Sheldon for her help in securing a 501(c)3 application for Hope House. The Annex at Hope House has been renovated, and they are scheduling site visits for licensing and accreditation.
- **Heather Albright of Substance Abuse Prevention Coalition** announced that they held a Drug Awareness Seminar, with JJ Hodshire speaking.
- **Sharon Roberts of ISD/Early On** announced that the Hillsdale Co. Early On program has been selected by the state as a Model Program for their collaboration with other agencies, and Early On and Early Head Start will be honored at an upcoming conference.
- **Maxine Vanlerberg of CAA** announced that CAA has seen twice as many clients this quarter than they did the previous quarter. Funding is very limited. The VITA (volunteer income tax program) will begin shortly – income requirements have changed for this year - \$49,000 for this year (last year it was \$40,000). CAA has 16 volunteers for the program this year – last year they had 4. CAA has a DHS kiosk where clients can apply for various programs online (with help available).
- **Steve Todd of Community Health Agency** announced that H1N1 clinics are ongoing, and the CHA is back at the schools with the second round for children 9 and under. Steve recommends that if you are traveling out of the area that you get an H1N1 vaccine before you go. Steve also announced that Jennie Sholly is retiring at the end of January.
- **Ken Lautzenheiser of County Commission** discussed the Commission's opposition to the aquifer project.
- **Ginelle Skinner of Great Start Collaborative** distributed a newsletter for parents, including events for families in the county.
- **Chris Clarke of Salvation Army** announced that SA received utility funding after the first of the year. SA also received a grant from the Community Foundation for housing.

- **Jane Munson of Key Opportunities** announced that their consignment store is up and running, providing work for ISD students and Key employees.
- **Jill Rodenhauer of United Way** announced a Partner Agency meeting on Jan. 27 at noon. She announced that the final FEMA paperwork has not yet available – she will forward when it does become available. The UW campaign stands at 84%. American Red Cross will be located in the United Way office starting Feb. 1.
- **Ginny Wood-Bailey of Region 2 Area Agency on Aging** announced that nominations are being accepted for OSA Senior Citizen awards in leadership and service. Nomination forms are available at the Senior Services Center.
- **Patrice Martin of SCMW!** announced that HomeTown Partnership convened an Entrepreneurial Expo, to connect experienced business owners with newcomers to the process. Fifty-two people participated, and 38 people gave of their time as resources. Patrice is also heading up the Complete Count committee for the U.S. Census – she will help connect agencies with Census folk to help spread the word to staff.
- **Bud Vear of Hillsdale Community Theatre** announced that they are preparing “Beauty and the Beast”, and planning for a C.S. Lewis Narnia presentation.
- **Bob Henthorne of ISD** asked for agenda time in the near future to talk about all the things happening at the ISD.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:00am. The next HSN meeting will be February 16, 2010, at the ISD at 8:30am.

Respectfully submitted,  
Laurie Brandes, HSN Coordinator